PRESENT—*cont.*

Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.
Muthiah Chettiyar, Mr. M. A.
Muthu Chettiyar, Mr. P. C.
Nachiyappa Goundar, Mr. K. A.
Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.
Nanjappah Bahadur, Subadar-Major S. A.
Narasa Reddi, Mr. T.
Narasimhaswami, Mr. D. V.
Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Narayanaswami Pillai, Rao Bahadur T. M.
Natesa Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C.
Palat, Mr. R. M.
Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Pate, I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
Pattagar of Palayakottai, The
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Raja of Kallikote, The.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Ramamurti, Pandit Ganala.
Ramamurti, I.C.S., Mr. S. V.
Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Strathie, I.C.S., Mr. D. N.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Subrahmanyam Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
Tottenham, I.C.S., Mr. G. R. F.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Winter, Mr. W. E.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Kirlampudi.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram.

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The undermentioned Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took their seats:—

Mr. F. E. James.

Mr. E. Conran Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Mr. W. E. Winter.

Mr. D. N. Strathie, I.C.S.

II.—ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency the Governor addressed the House as follows:—

"Mr. President and hon. Members of the Council,—In opening this session of the Legislative Council there are one or two observations on various topics that I wish to make.

"When I last addressed you, I stated that the financial position of the Presidency in common with the rest of the world was giving cause for anxiety and that a Special Officer had been appointed to examine in detail the expenditure of the various departments to enable the Government to ascertain whether economies could be effected. The recommendations made by him have been under the consideration of the Finance

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Committee, who have been acting as a Retrenchment Committee, and have been submitted by them to the Government together with their own recommendations. Their valuable work is still continuing, and the Government hope, with their assistance, to be able to preserve the financial stability of the Presidency; but I consider it right to inform the Members of the Council that the economic situation must give cause for great anxiety for some time to come and that economy must be the first thought of us all. I would therefore beg hon. Members to assist the Government in this most urgent matter and to refrain from pressing schemes, which, though they may be measures that in more prosperous times we should be glad to adopt, must be out of our reach during this unprecedented time of economic depression throughout the world, and also not to place obstacles in the way of schemes of retrenchment which the Government may find it necessary to adopt.

" In order to assist the country to economise, a cut has been foreshadowed in the pay of the services and I should like to pay a tribute to the way in which they have accepted what must necessarily be a grave inconvenience to them. In this connexion I may mention that Members of the Executive Council and Ministers have agreed to a voluntary cut of 10 per cent in their salaries, and there will be a similarly voluntary cut of 10 per cent in mine, though, in my case, I am having a further examination made of commitments on my private purse, with a view to a possible further surrender of salary. The hon. the Chief Justice and the Judges of the High Court have also agreed to a voluntary cut, the amount of which will be announced later.

" On the occasion of my last speech to you I was able to sound a cheerful note on the progress that had been made at the Round Table Conference,—progress that was far greater than had ever been anticipated by even the most sanguine supporters of the Conference. There appears to be a check in that progress now; the Conference has come to grips with the communal question, which has always been the crux of the problem. At the moment no solution has been found, and there are not wanting people who say that it will not be possible to find one. I may be too much of an optimist, but I do not number myself among those. Given goodwill and an earnest desire on all sides to solve the problem, I cannot bring myself to believe that it is not possible to find a formula which can and will satisfy all communities. When such a formula is found, I can see no insuperable obstacle to the framing of a constitution which will give to India that measure of self-government to which we all look forward. When that time comes I have no doubt whatever that Madras will show the rest of India how provincial self-government should be carried out; but I consider I should be failing in my duty and should also be running the risk of frustrating the high hopes I have for self-government in this Presidency if I did not point out to hon. Members where, in my opinion, they are falling short of the standard that this Council should attain.

" I have noticed a tendency on the part of hon. Members to make assertions on the attitude of Government in regard to various questions

—especially those on the reserved side—which are sometimes diametrically opposed to the real facts. Such a case was very marked in the debate which was initiated at the end of last session with regard to the resettlement in the Kistna and West Godavari districts. This is not the time to go into the matter in detail, but briefly the Government could have taken the easy way and have imposed no enhancement. But they considered, and I think rightly, that they must consider not only the present but also the future and they visualised a Government of the future entirely composed of hon. Members of this Council who might well blame the Government for not having enforced the resettlement. They therefore decided that there must be an enhancement, but they also had regard to the position of the ryot and how he has been affected by the recent fall in prices. They accordingly decided that the proposed enhancement of $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent should be in three equal annual instalments and further that, though there might be an enhancement on paper, the increase should not be collected unless the price obtainable for the produce justified such an increase. What could be fairer than that? The Government of the future is safeguarded, the ryot is safeguarded because he will not be asked to pay more unless the price for his produce justifies such a demand, and I should have thought that such a decision would commend itself to any fair-minded man. I have read through the whole of the debate and the most charitable view to take of it is that the various speakers had not read the order, or if they had done so, they had not gathered the correct purport of it. The result has been to cause unnecessary concern and anxiety to the ryots where there was not the slightest need for it and it is just the kind of undesired result that I wish to emphasise. I would beg hon. Members to bear this in mind—if due consideration is not paid to what the effect may be of a motion or indeed of an individual speech—the result may be quite alien to the intentions of the speaker and may have far-reaching and possibly disastrous consequences. I have mentioned this at some length because a long parliamentary experience has convinced me of the real dangers that such a course may involve. If an hon. Member is really desirous of elucidating some question, there is the question hour for him to do so and if such a course had been followed in the case I have mentioned, the matter could have been made clear and the ryot could have been saved much anxiety. I do not for one moment contend that if an hon. Member is not satisfied with the position as elucidated, he is not to give notice of a motion, nor do I mean to say that he is not to criticise the declared policy of the Government; but I do wish to impress upon hon. Members the danger that may arise from a motion or from a speech based on a totally false impression of the intentions of the Government either now or in the future.

11-15 a.m. "I thank you, Mr. President and hon. Members of the Council, for the patience and courtesy with which you have listened to me, and I can assure you that I have only spoken as I have done because I am so jealous that, when responsible self-government is granted to the Provinces, as I believe it will be before long, the proceedings in this Council

will be carried out in such a way as to redound to its dignity and to ensure the contentment of the people of this Presidency. I will conclude by tendering to you, Mr. President, and to the hon. Members of the Council, my most fervent good wishes for the work of this session and my earnest hope that it may not be long before I shall have the privilege of opening a Council which will be the first in this Presidency under provincial self-government."

The address over, His Excellency left the Council Chamber.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" As it is now 11-20, we shall go on with Questions and Answers till 12-20."

III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Depressed Classes

* 222 *Q.*—[Cancelled.]

Grant for education to depressed class Christians.

* 223 *Q.*—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one-third of the Labour grant for education has been assigned to depressed class Christians; and

(*b*) how the proportion of one-third was arrived at?

A.—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Emigration

Withholding of the passport to Mr. Gubil Sundaresan.

* 224 *Q.*—Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the passport to Mr. Gubil Sundaresan, Journalist, Trichinopoly, to proceed to England was withheld by the Government; and

(*b*) if so, what were the reasons?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) His passport was cancelled for political reasons, which no longer hold good. A fresh passport has now been issued to him.

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what were the political reasons for which his passport was cancelled? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The passport has since been given, and I do not think it is necessary to go into personal matters."